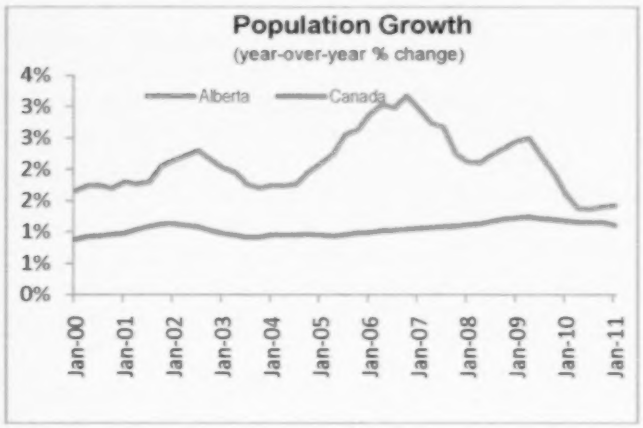
Population

Population growth continues ...

Alberta's population was estimated to be 3,742,753 as of January 1, 2011 up 1.4% from the fourth quarter of 2009. Natural growth of 7,249 accounted for more than half of Alberta's growth of 7,667 in the fourth quarter of 2010 as growth in net inflow of interprovincial (2,510) and international (4,633) migrants was offset by a decline in non-permanent residents (-6,725).

Nationally, population advanced 1.1% year-over-year in the fourth quarter of 2010 to 34,278,406. Growth was recorded in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Net international migration declined from 25,400 in the fourth quarter of 2009 to 10,900 in the fourth quarter of 2010. Further decreases were also recorded for net non-permanent residents.



Employment Insurance

Number of beneficiaries down...

The number of employment insurance (EI) beneficiaries in Alberta was down 3.0% in January, with 1,370 fewer people receiving benefits than in December. Compared to January 2010, the number of beneficiaries declined 24.2%, the largest drop in the country. Nationally, the number of EI beneficiaries decreased 2.0% to 640,150 as decreases were recorded in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. On a year-over-year basis, 65,180 fewer Canadians received benefits.

Canadian Dollar (US¢/C$)		
	March 25, 2011	102.27
	March 18, 2011	101.59
	2010-11 YTD	98.39
WTI Oil US$/bbl		
	March 25, 2011	$105.40
	March 18, 2011	$101.07
	2010-11 YTD	$83.11
Nymex Natural Gas C$/MMBtu*		
Near-month Contract		
	March 25, 2011	$4.15
	March 18, 2011	$4.05

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Farm Product Price Index (FPPI)

Crop and livestock prices increasing ...

The prices received by Alberta farmers for their commodities rose 6.1% in January from December and ware up 14% from January 2010. This growth was as a result of increases in both crops (5.2%) and livestock and animal products (5.8%). The January increase in both components marks the second consecutive monthly increase. Nationally, the FPPI advanced 2.9% in January as increases were recorded in both crops (4.5%) and livestock and animal products (1.7%). On a year-over-year basis, Canada's FPPI rose 9.3%.

Retail Trade

Sales edged down ...

Seasonally adjusted retail sales in Alberta decreased 0.5% in January to $5.2 billion. This reduction was mainly due to decreased sales in electronic and appliance stores (50.4%), clothing and clothing accessories stores (55.6%) and sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores (49.8%). On a year-over-year basis, retail sales advanced 5.5%. Nationally, retail sales declined 0.3% to $37.1 billion (seasonally adjusted) in January. Decreases were also recorded in Quebec (-1.0%), Ontario (-0.5%) and British Columbia (-0.4%). Even with this decline, Canadian retail sales were 3.5% higher than January 2010.

Current Economic Indicators

Population	2009	2010	2011YTD*	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Population [1] (000's) (level)	3,671	3,721	3,743	--	3,735	--	--	3,743	--
% change NEW!	2.2	1.4	1.4	--	1.4	--	--	1.4	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton [1] (level)	13,184	-2,183	3,665	--	1,155	--	--	2,510	--
Net International Migration [1] (level) NEW!	16,835	21,533	10,994	--	6,361	--	--	4,633	--
Net Non-permanent Residents [1] (level)	19,162	-77	-8,368	--	-1,643	--	--	-6,725	--
Labour Market									
Employment [2] (000's)	2,025	2,017	2,061	2,021	2,038	2,033	2,032	2,054	2,068
% change [2]	-1.3	-0.4	2.8	0.0	1.6	0.9	0.5	2.2	3.4
Unemployment Rate [2] (%)	6.6	6.5	5.8	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.9	5.7
Participation Rate [2] (%)	74.3	72.9	73.3	72.5	72.8	72.4	72.2	73.2	73.4
Average Weekly Earnings ($)	950.13	993.43	--	996.80	1009.35	1013.64	1000.85	--	--
% change	2.9	4.6	--	4.6	6.3	5.3	5.4	--	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index	-0.1	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.2	0.1	0.8	1.0	1.2
Excluding food and energy	1.4	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.3
Non-Res. Cons. Cost Index [3] (quarterly)	-9.8	-0.1	--	--	2.7	--	--	--	--
Farm Product Price Index	-10.6	-3.9	14.0	1.9	5.4	5.3	10.1	14.0	--
Crops NEW!	-18.9	-14.5	3.7	-9.6	-6.7	-8.0	0.0	3.7	--
Livestock	-2.8	5.7	23.0	14.4	17.3	18.6	19.4	23.0	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	20.0	27.1	20.8	27.6	25.7	21.6	21.0	19.6	21.9
% change	-31.6	33.5	-22.0	12.2	-14.0	-28.2	-23.9	-20.3	-23.4
New Housing Price Index	-9.0	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.5	--
Edmonton	-11.2	-0.8	0.3	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.3	--
Calgary	-6.7	1.7	0.8	2.0	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.8	--
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ 000's)	340.5	350.9	355.1	355.4	348.0	353.8	348.3	352.8	357.4
% change	-3.1	3.1	2.7	0.6	-1.7	-0.5	-2.3	2.4	2.9
Edmonton	319.1	326.5	322.1	327.4	324.9	330.3	322.0	323.1	321.0
% change	-3.5	2.3	-0.5	0.5	-0.6	0.2	-2.6	0.5	-1.4
Calgary	384.3	397.4	404.0	410.2	396.0	402.9	396.5	401.7	406.2
% change	-4.2	3.4	3.6	1.9	-0.8	-0.3	-2.0	4.3	2.9
Retail Sales [4] NEW!	-8.3	5.7	5.5	6.0	6.4	8.9	7.3	5.5	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	-21.7	9.3	6.6	14.5	0.3	11.5	3.4	6.6	--
Consumer Bankruptcies	9,986	8150.0	--	732	700	667	519	--	--
% change	64.6	-18.4	--	-37.1	1.4	-2.8	-18.1	--	--
Business Sector									
Rigs Drilling	128	207	395	177	260	276	269	372	418
% change	-45.6	61.3	26.2	59.3	101.4	81.5	18.5	29.6	23.3
Goods Exports (customs based)	-36.3	11.3	--	6.0	6.8	2.0	2.6	--	--
Energy	-40.1	15.6	--	4.8	3.4	-0.6	-4.4	--	--
Agriculture	-10.2	-14.4	--	-6.9	-2.8	-1.4	15.6	--	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	-7.5	-5.9	--	0.2	--	--	7.1	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments	-23.7	11.0	15.4	16.7	17.8	14.7	16.3	15.4	--
Wholesale Trade [5]	-15.9	11.1	15.8	22.2	25.1	22.7	19.5	15.8	--
Building Permits	-14.2	2.1	-25.3	-10.7	-39.3	-17.1	-28.5	-25.1	--
Residential	-11.8	24.7	-27.3	-19.6	-22.7	-21.4	-19.8	-22.6	--
Non-residential	-16.3	-19.0	-20.9	7.2	-52.5	-11.8	-35.2	-29.2	--
Business Bankruptcies	405	378	--	34	24	19	44	--	--
% change	-9.4	-6.7	--	-2.9	-27.3	-40.6	37.5	--	--

Government of Alberta ■
Finance and Enterprise

Alberta ■

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

1 Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30).

2 The Employment, Unemployment Rate and Participation Rate series were revised on February 4, 2011 and are no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins

3 Average of Calgary and Edmonton

4 The Retail Sales series was revised on April 23, 2010 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins.

5 The Wholesale Trade series was revised on April 21, 2010 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins.

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada).

Current Economic Indicators by Province